

Immunization Registry Progress in Iowa

Immunization Coverage in Iowa

According to National Immunization Survey (NIS) data for July 1998 to June 1999, the percentage of children 19-35 months of age who were up-to-date with 4 doses of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, 3 doses of poliomyelitis, and 1 dose of measles, mumps, rubella vaccine was 83%.

Facts about Iowa State Immunization Information System (ISIIS)

- ISIIS collects and manages immunization data for the entire state of Iowa.
- The targeted age group for ISIIS is birth to preschool (4 - 6 years of age).
- Currently, entities linking with the registry include:
 - Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program;
 - Schools; and
 - Community/Migrant Health Centers.
- As of June 21, 1999:
 - 39% of children less than 6 years old were enrolled in the registry; and
 - 35% of all providers were enrolled in the registry.

Other registry plans, accomplishments, and successes

The registry program is working with a software contractor to improve the registry software through the development of a web-based application. Participation in the registry should be easier and more attractive to private providers.

Some challenges and barriers affecting registry progress

- The registry currently is operational only within the public health domain. It is hoped that private providers can be recruited once the web-based application is finished. However, there are other public agencies that could strengthen the utilization of registry data. (i.e., the Department of Education and the Department of Human Services).
- The Program also would like to utilize the registry for documenting adult vaccination. Iowa currently has one of the most elderly populations in the country. Influenza and pneumonia are major causes of death in this group. The Program would like to see an increased priority for services to this important segment of the population. However, most available funding and political support is directed toward infants and children.

Current political or legislative factors affecting registry activity

Adequate funding for technology always is an issue. While the importance of immunization is clearly recognized and funding for vaccines remains available, activities such as the registry have more difficulty obtaining support. The challenge is to develop a better understanding of and support for registries. One approach is to emphasize cost savings realized by fully-functional registries.

Helpful immunization and immunization registry contacts in Iowa

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